

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Application No.: 09/913,611

Atty Docket No.: Q54917

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 and 2. (canceled).

Claim 3. (previously presented): A carbon fiber woven fabric obtained by firing in a non-oxidizing atmosphere a cellulose-based woven fabric in a temperature range of 900-3000°C, and having a thickness in the range of 0.05-0.4 mm, a volume resistivity of less than 0.2 Ω•cm in the layer direction, and a gas permeability of not less than 1500 cc/cm²/hr/mmAq, and, wherein the electrical resistance in the direction of thickness of the woven fabric is no greater than 50 mΩ•cm² as measured between two copper plates with a load of 4 kgf /cm².

Claim 4. (previously presented): The carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 3, wherein the carbon fiber woven fabric has an orientation which includes an orientation component having an orientation ($q/(p+q)$) of 4/9 or greater.

Claim 5. (previously presented): The carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 3, wherein the carbon fiber woven fabric has an orientation which is an average orientation ($q/(p+q)$) of 1/3 or greater.

Claim 6. (previously presented): The carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 3 which is a plain weave.

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Claim 7. (previously presented): The carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 3 which has a water repellent property, and wherein a water repellent resin is coated in an amount of 5 to 60% by weight based on the carbon fiber fabric.

Claim 8. (previously presented): A gas diffusion porous carbon sheet for a solid polymer fuel cell which comprises a carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 3.

Claim 9. (withdrawn): The process for manufacture of a carbon fiber woven fabric, characterized by firing a natural cellulose-based woven fabric in a non-oxidizing atmosphere.

Claim 10. (withdrawn): The process for manufacture of a carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 9, wherein said cellulose-based woven fabric is soaked with a phosphoric acid or phosphorus compound solution.

Claim 11. (withdrawn): The process for the manufacture of a carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 9, wherein the firing temperature is in the range of 900-3000°C.

Claim 12. (withdrawn): The process for the manufacture of a carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 9, which includes coating the fired carbon fiber woven fabric with a water-repellent resin.

Claim 13. (previously presented): The carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 3, wherein the compressive strength is not less than 70 kgf/cm².

Claim 14. (new): The carbon fiber woven fabric as claimed in claim 3, wherein the cellulose-based woven fabric that is fired is a natural cellulose-based woven fabric.

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Claim 15. (new): A carbon woven fabric obtained by a natural cellulose-based woben fabric, and having a thickness in a range of 0.05 to 0.4 mm, a volume resistivity of less than 0.2 $\Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ in the layer direction, and a gas permeability of not less than 1500 cc/cm²/hr/mmAq.